



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: NC112**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Surry, Wilkes, Watauga, Yadkin Counties, North Carolina

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: North Wilkesboro, NC 28659 Wilkes County

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This nomination would allow for increased food animal veterinary support to an individual interested in locating to an underserved area of northwestern North Carolina. Surry County is currently identified in the AVMA Food Supply Veterinary Medicine study as a county with 41,631 food animals and no food animal veterinarians located within. It and the surrounding counties of Wilkes and Yadkin all have food animal populations of greater than 25,000 animals, consisting of one of the last few concentrated dairy areas in our state, as well as significant and growing populations of sheep and goats. Watauga County, while having less than 10,000 food animals, is in close proximity to the western section of the other three counties and contains the town of Boone, a progressive college town that would be attractive to young, dual income professionals. The entire four county area remains relatively agrarian, rural, and in need of expanded food animal veterinary support. Wilkes County ranks 4<sup>th</sup>, Yadkin County 5<sup>th</sup>, and Surry County 10<sup>th</sup> in the state in total cattle population as per 2007 NASS statistics. In addition, Yadkin and Wilkes rank 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, respectively, in number of milk cows.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This nomination would support an individual willing to locate within the area and provide mixed animal veterinary services to a rural area. The individual could establish a new practice in any of the four counties, or become employed by any of the existing practices with currently minimal presence- Watauga (1 food animal veterinarian), Wilkes (1), or Yadkin (2). The individual could provide comprehensive services for all species, with at least 30% dedicated to food animal. As in most underserved areas, the ability to financially support a 100% food animal practice would be difficult, thus the Type II nomination. The activities of a dedicated mixed animal practitioner in this area would greatly assist the preservation and expansion of a vibrant and varied food animal industry in a relatively remote area of North Carolina.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Direct information on specific efforts to recruit to this area is not extensive. The intent of this nomination is focused primarily on providing the opportunity for a young, recently graduated veterinarian to locate to the area and establish himself/herself within a small community as a professional resource and contributor to the agricultural and social infrastructure of the area.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

As with many of these underserved areas, the risk of lack of food animal veterinarians will have negative impact on our state and nation's animal disease, food supply, and public health preparedness. This four county area is no different than hundreds throughout the country. Dedicated food animal veterinarian availability is critical to foreign and endemic animal disease surveillance. It is well documented that food supply veterinarians serve a key role in public health preparedness, as 75% of emerging human diseases are of animal origin. Veterinarians often serve on small community local public health boards and commissions. The lack of food supply veterinarian availability directly impacts animal welfare, as many producers are reduced to practicing on their own animals beyond the scope of their ability, often with inhumane results and subsequent environmental impact through improper disposal of deceased livestock. The use of antimicrobials without veterinary oversight increases the rate of residue violations in the food supply. The failure of this position not being secured, as with many of North Carolina's nominations, will continue the erosion of critical food supply veterinary infrastructure within our state.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Dr. David T. Marshall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**State Veterinarian**  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
NC Dept.of Agriculture  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
David.marshall@ncagr.gov  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
919-733-7601  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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